

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

REFER TO DOS

WASHINGTON

December 22, 1969

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MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

The President was very pleased with an article on Sir Robert Thompson which appeared in the December 18 New York Times. It was noted that Sir Robert Thompson has not discussed the length of his report, the details of it, or how much he will be paid, but he did say that he is impressed by the President. "I think for the first time in a long time you have a professional President."

JRB

JOHN R. BROWN III

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

CONFIDENTIAL

December 22, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger *K*

SUBJECT: Rocket Attack on Saigon

You asked me if I believed the rocket attack on Saigon December 16 bore any relation to your public statement on December 15.

I do not believe the two events are directly related. It probably takes about two to three weeks to implement an order which was itself a reaction to an event in the United States. Security in the vicinity of Saigon is now sufficiently tight to further complicate the execution of a retaliatory attack of this type. You will recall that General Abrams mentioned that the rocket attack in question drew prompt counterbattery fire and that ground forces discovered that although the enemy had positioned three rockets for the attack, only one was fired. Notwithstanding, I believe we can continue to expect that the enemy will react to your public statements when it is possible for them to do so. However, it is probable that the reaction will be feeble in the case of Saigon due to our improving defenses.

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